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Message Text

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20
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OC-05 CCO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 SY-05

USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 /084 W
---------- 095939
R 292335Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2706
INFO ALL CONSULATES MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1268

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, MX
SUBJ: LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS THREATENED

REF: MEXICO 10498

SUMMARY: THERE EXISTS A POSSIBILITY OF A VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN LEFTWING UNION-STUDENT ELEMENTS WHO SUPPORT DISSIDENT ELECTRICAL POWER WORKERS AND THE SUPPORTES OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF ELECTRICAL POWER WORKERS UNION (SUTERM) WHICH INCLUDES THE CONFEDERATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS (CTM) AND OTHERS. THE DISSIDENTS THREATEN TO DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF THE SUTERM HEADQUARTERS ON JAN. 31, 1976. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DISSIDENT LEFTWING GROUP OF ELECTRIC POWER WORKERS LED BY EXPELLED MARXIST UNION LEADER RAFAEL GALVAN HAS THREATENED A DESMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT SUPPORTED UNION CLOSE BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. THE UNION, SUTERM, PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY TOO WOULD DEMONSTRATE ON THE SAME DAY AND PRESUMABLY AT THE SAME PLACE IF THE DISSIDENT GROUP CALLED TENDENCIA DEMOCRATICA, ARE ALLOWED TO GROUP. MEANWHILE,
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ON JAN. 28, 1976, THE SECOND ELECTRICAL POWER WORKERS

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UNION OF MEXICO, SINDICATO MEXICANO DE ELECTRICISTAS
(SME) AND THE SUTERM SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN THE PRESENCE
OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA THAT GUARANTEED THE SECURITY
AND COOPERATION OF TECHNICAL UNION WORKERS SENT TO
PERFORM TASKS IN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE
OTHER UNION. THIS AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A FIRST STEP
TOWARD THE AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO NATIONAL UNIONS,
ONE, SUTERM, POLITICALLY DEMOCRATIC AND THE OTHER,
SME, MARXIST LED, A GOAL OF THE PRESIDENT SINCE HE
TOOK OFFICE IN 1970.

2. A SENIOR OFFICER OF SME TOLD LABATT ON JAN. 29, 1976
THAT HIS UNION WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN
THE SUTERM AND ITS DISSIDENTS AND WOULD NOT
PARTICIPATE IN THE THREATENED DEMONSTRATION ON JAN. 31.

3. COMMENT: A) THE SUTERM AND THE SME HAVE SIGNED
A PEACE PACT BUT NO ONE BELIEVES THAT THESE TWO
UNIONS WILL MERGE. THEY ARE TOO FAR APART POLITICALLY,
AND STRUCTURALLY THEY TAKE OPPOSITE POSITIONS OVER
THE AFFILIATION OF A MERGED UNION WITH THE CTM.

B) IF THE THREATENED DEMONSTRATION TAKES PLACE
THERE IS A STRONG LIKELIHOOD OF SOME VIOLENCE.
THE GALVAN GROUP, "TENDENCIA DEMOCRATICA," ACCORDING
TO A NEWSPAPER AD, CLAIM SUPPORT FROM UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GROUPS, MARXIST LABOR UNIONS, THE RADICAL
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC "FRENTE AUTENTICO DE TRABAJADORES"
(FAT), THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF MEXICO, THW WOERERS
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND OTHER SUCH ELEMENTS. IF
THE GOM GRANTS PERMISSION TO THE DISSIDENTS, THE
CTM AND OTHER FIDEL VELAZQUEZ SUPPORTERS CAN BE
COUNTED ON TO JOIN THE FUN IN SUPPORT OF THE SUTERM.
NEEDLESS TO SAY, ANY VIOLENCE WILL POLITICALLY
EMBARRASS BOTH ECHEVERRIA AND LOPEZ PORTILLO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LABOR DISPUTES, THREATS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO01268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760035-0678
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760110/aaaaaiaf.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 10498
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS THREATENED
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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